

MYSTERY OF BIG ROBBERY SOLVED

Chicago Speculator Charge With Theft of \$173,000 From Government Vaults

SECRET SERVICE MEN WERE LONG BAFFLE

**Former Newspaper Reporter
Shadows Assorting Teller and
Produces Enough Evidence
to Warrant Arrest—Prison-
er Dragged from Home
in Middle of Night.**

CHICAGO, ILL., August 23.—The mystery of the theft of \$174,000 from the United States Savings treasury a year and a half ago, one of the largest losses the government has ever suffered in this manner, is believed to have been solved by the arrest at an early hour to-day of George W. Fitzgerald. Officers are said to have been implicated in the crime, which for months has completely baffled government and service men.

History of Theft.
Fitzgerald, survey or assistant

under Assistant United States At-
torney William Boldenbeck. At the
February 20, 1937, suspicion rested
on him, but so plausible was his story
and so intense was his apparent de-
sire to discover the real culprit, the
investigation centered in him. Much
work was done on the part of the
crime had been perpetrated by a
gro. Meanwhile Fitzgerald was de-
charged from the government employ-
ment for culpable negligence in allow-
ing such a theft to be consummated
under his supervision.

The money stolen had been used
was tied in packages, some have
been marked for destruction at Wa-
shington. The bills would readily be

The theft created a sensation throughout the country, and Congress at the last session refused to release Assistant Treasurer Boldenwek from liability, though it was promised that it would consider the matter further at its next session.

Meanwhile Herbert H. Young, a Chicago newspaper reporter, now head of the secret service agency, became interested in the case, at first with official connection, but later as agent of Mr. Boldenwek. Mr. Young's attention was redirected to Fitzgerald. The latter, upon his discharge in 1913, was given a check for \$10,000.

His wife had a \$700 interest in estate of her mother, which valued at about \$4,000, and was litigation.

According to Mr. Young, however, Fitzgerald embarked in speculation on a scale not consistent with the means of his reputed means. There was, however, no ostentation in Fitzgerald's life. The lavish display which detectives invariably look for in trace of stolen funds was absent. Fitzgerald bought eggs for speculation and stored them. In July, 1907, he inaugurated an egg deal, which ultimately, it is stated, was successful.

Involved an expenditure of \$7,000; following March a similar deal involved him, according to Mr. Young, to the extent of \$15,000.

Incidentally the former teller became the possessor in his own name of a neat \$8,500 brick residence in Rogers' Park, a suburb of Chicago. Mr. Young declared to-day that the purchase was made in a roundabout way, passing through several hands.

and finally into those of Mrs. Fitzgerald, for a consideration of \$1. **Tried to Pass Notes.**

Last July the scent is said to have become hot, when Colonel Harry Gano, superintendent of A. Booth Company, a business man of prominence and public spirit, reported to Boldenwek. It is said, that Fitzgerald approached him with a proposition to purchase several \$1,000 bills.

"With your big business connections," Fitzgerald is said to have argued to Colonel Gano, "you can easily pass them. There's \$500 in it for you."

Gano is reported to have decided that he had a roll of similar bar "that would choke a horse."

After conferring with Mr. Bolden, Colonel Gano continued negotiations with Fitzgerald with the result of a prearrangement, Detective You

"I will bring two," Fitzgerald is alleged to have said, "for you can ride two just as well as one."

From the moment of Colonel Galt's first interview with the Assistant United States Treasurer, it is said, he was in the hands of the young man or some of his men, shadowed by them.

Fitzgerald. The trail, it is intimated broadly, involved others, not only helping Fitzgerald to dispose of money alleged to have been stolen but in the very act of extracting from the Treasury vaults and in later covering of tracks.

are not yet prepared to divulge these persons were. It had not been intended to arrest Fitzgerald at the time, as further evidence was not wanted against him, but developments were expected which would conclusively involve others. However, it was stated, those under suspicion obtained

The case being one properly under Federal jurisdiction a United States

Judge was first sought, but none could be found. Assistant State's Attorney Barbour was next approached. Shortly after midnight this morning Judge Chetlan, at his home issued bench warrant for the arrest of F...

Wife Becomes Hysterical.
Detective Young, with Detective Joseph Kinder, of the State attorney's office, climbed into a high-power automobile and sped to Rogers's Park.

Fitzgerald appeared at the door